

April 24, 1981

LB 134

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, LB 134.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 134, there are no E & R amendments. I do have an amendment from Senator Beutler to....no, I'm sorry. It was an amendment from Senator Beutler adopted. I now have an amendment from Senator Fenger to indefinitely postpone the bill, Mr. President. It was laid over on April 16. It is now before us for our consideration.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fenger.

SENATOR FENGER: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the original intent of the i.p.p. motion a couple of days ago on LB 134 was to buy time to prepare two amendments to the bill. Now I find that at least five will be offered. I think we should give serious consideration to indefinitely postponing this bill, have the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee address this problem in an interim study. I would remind you that last summer the Political Accountability Commission held a hearing in this very building in an effort to bring a bill of improvement to this body. This is the transcript right here. It is not even available on paper nine months later. It is obvious to me that they are not serious about updating this legislation and I think it should be done by an interim committee rather than piecemeal legislation at this late stage. As a result, I would urge adoption of my motion to individually postpone LB 134.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, obviously I oppose the motion to indefinitely postpone. I am a little bit surprised that Senator Fenger offered that motion, having voted the bill out of committee himself which I appreciated in the first place. But this issue has been studied at great length in the first place. It has been studied by individual senators. The Political and Accountability Commission was asked to study the issue last summer and fall. They appointed a special committee to study the issue. That committee met several times throughout the summer and the fall and they came with the recommendation to the Legislature and that recommendation, by and large, is what constitutes LB 134. In addition to that study, of course I had a public hearing before the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee. There were a number of meetings on it after that. The basic concept of making a distinction between personal expenditures and expenditures for campaign purposes and that is the purpose for the bill of course, is to make that basic distinction. It has had plenty of study. Don't confuse the need for study on getting that